

Proposed border crossing legislation

The Department of Licensing is seeking legislation that will preserve our beneficial partnerships with British Columbia following increasing federal identification requirements at the Canadian border. This bill will permit the State to enter into agreements with the federal government and Canadian provinces to set standards and requirements for the issuance of a **voluntarily** enhanced special driver license/identification card that can be used as ID for border crossing in place of a U.S. Passport.

In anticipation of the 2010 Olympic Games in British Columbia, and in response to federal initiatives to improve identification of travelers who cross international borders, DOL developed a plan to address border crossings between Washington and British Columbia. An enhanced driver license/ID card would relieve unnecessary barriers on travel and economic prosperity for our law-abiding citizens.

Proposed legislation would:

- Implement system changes to allow wireless scanners to verify the authenticity and validity of driver licenses against driver databases.
- Require citizens to verify citizenship, state residence, and reaffirm identity on a voluntary basis if they choose to purchase an enhanced card.
- Allow certified birth certificates and other identity/citizenship documents to be scanned for authentication. If DOL is unable to authenticate the required documents, the applicant will be denied an enhanced driver license and referred to the State Department for a Passport.
- Allow for a biometric to include access to the photo database within DOL.

Benefits of legislation:

- It will preserve and enhance trade and tourism with British Columbia.
- It will allow easy travel access to B.C. at a low cost.
- The technology and improved issuance process will better detect fraudulent documents and deter fraud and identity theft.
- Citizens would be able to **voluntarily** participate with an enhanced driver license or identification card that will meet federal travel ID requirements.
- Allows Licensing to set fees for the voluntary driver licenses/ ID cards.



Program costs

\$8,992,000 in funding (included in Governor's budget) is requested to create an alternative and **voluntary** secured driver license/ID card with enhanced security features to ease border crossings.

Costs include:

- 24.2 FTEs
- One-time expenditures for scanning and imaging equipment
- Staffing and equipment maintenance cost will be ongoing